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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer to ensure publication.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE JOURNAL

I.

Dear Editor: I have practically all the numbers of the JOURNAL for the past two years to dispose of.

Massina Hotel,
Bakersfield, Calif.

EDITH PEALE

II.

Dear Editor: With the exception of a few numbers, I have the JOURNALS from 1913 to 1917, and would be glad to send to any one who could use them.

2021 Castillo Street,
Santa Barbara, Calif.

JEANNIE JAMIESON

A SATISFACTORY COURSE IN EXECUTIVE WORK

Dear Editor: The members of the Postgraduate Executive Course at the Illinois Training School, Chicago, completed their course and were awarded certificates on August 15. The course was the first of its kind offered in this state to women holding executive positions in the nursing profession. The eighteen enrolled members represented Illinois, Texas, South Dakota, New Jersey, Philippine Islands, and Canada. During the six weeks' period the total number of lectures and classes amounted to 148, with 25 excursions to various institutions which proved of value and interest. It is the consensus of opinion of the nurses who availed themselves of this splendid opportunity, that much credit is due Mary C. Wheeler for her untiring efforts and wise counsel. The course was a success, interesting and beneficial to all, enabling the members to carry on their work with better equipment, mental and physical, as a half hour each morning prior to the study period was devoted to setting-up exercises. It is hoped the course may be given each year for the benefit of nurses doing institutional work.

CAROLINE H. SOELLNER,
Secretary of the Class.

AN UNUSUAL DECORATION

Dear Editor: On July 6, tired, hot and thirsty, we all stood in line on board the ship *Imperator*, waiting assignment to our cabins. Our tug had not been able to get to the gang-plank, as they were coaling on one side and taking on troops on the other. After much heated discussion between the tug's captain and the ship's officers, it was decided to raise the gang-way stairs and pull us up to the open door. The difficulty being thus overcome and we had quite safely landed in the hold. Going up several flights of stairs, we were finally brought to a standstill in a crowded hallway and told to wait. A little later we were told that the nurses were wanted in the Recreation Room on B deck. Upon our arrival there, we found the officer in charge of the Army Personnel who, in a few words of introduction, informed us that the French Military Headquarters at Brest had sent out a representative to decorate the nurses of the A. E. F. He then introduced a French General (I am sorry I did not get his name) who made a very pleasing address, in English, in which he said the French military organization and the civilian population of France had looked on with interest at the large

number of American women nurses that were brought to France to care for the sick and wounded. To-day he took this opportunity of telling these nurses and through them, all nurses of the A. E. F., that France was very grateful to them for their services in helping to carry the war to a successful issue, that France considered it a privilege to have had these women throughout the length and breadth of her land and honored them for their great help to humanity everywhere. He then introduced some six or eight ladies who came forward, followed by a dozen young girls dressed in white, carrying large bouquets of lilies and roses, which they presented to the chief nurses. Eleanor Keely, with a few appropriate remarks, accepted the decoration for all A. E. F. nurses. All were then formally introduced to the visitors and had a pleasant half-hour trying to converse in French.

U. S. A. General Hospital No. 2,
Fort McHenry, Md.

LAURA A. BEECROFT,
Chief Nurse, A. N. C.

RANK FOR NURSES

I.

Dear Editor: In reading the article on Rank for Nurses, in the August number of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, I find that some of the nurses' experiences in going overseas were somewhat similar to an experience I had in December, 1918. I was in charge of a unit of 30 nurses of the Army Nurse Corps, all in uniform. We were being transferred from a camp in the southern part of Texas, to a camp in eastern Georgia. Leaving Texas Christmas night, our trunk checks and tickets were given me by the Lieutenant of the Quartermaster Department, who told me that the Pullman was for us and that we had a porter who would go through with us to Georgia, which we all thought was lovely. It was about 9:30 p. m. when we boarded the train and the first thing I did was to have all our berths made up, as we were tired after our Christmas day, and so we all retired. About 1:00 a. m. the train started and just as I was nicely settled down for the night, I heard a voice call out, "Who has charge of this crowd?" and I answered. It was the Pullman conductor, who wanted to see our tickets and who, after looking at them, remarked, in a very gruff voice, "Who told you to use all the berths in this car, when your ticket only calls for 18 of them?" So there we were in bed, and had to get up and double up, two in a berth, both upper and lower. Though the others in the car were made up, we were not permitted to use them, by order of the conductor. At Houston, we changed conductors, and when the new one came along, I asked him why we had to sleep two in a berth when we had the whole sleeper, and he said that the government only paid for the eighteen, and that we must not use any other space in the car. So for three days and nights 30 nurses traveled like emigrants in these United States. The last night on the train there was a sleeper attached to ours in which there were 20 junior Naval officers, and it was absolutely impossible for any of our nurses to enter the dining car, as these officers pushed by and occupied all the seats there. When we were served there was very little left to eat, though we paid for what we did get. Now if we had had rank, that would never have happened, as I know that we would be in the senior class, whereas we were just Army nurses. The diner was taken off the train about 6 a. m. the next morning, so we lost out on supper the evening before with nothing to eat until we reached camp at 3 p. m., almost twenty-four hours without anything to eat except a few apples for which we paid ten cents apiece, on the train. There was no heat in the car and it was much colder in Georgia than in Texas.